

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION** (37 CFR §1.121(b))

Please insert the following paragraph prior to line 1 at page 1 of the specification.

**FIELD OF THE INVENTION**

Please insert the following paragraph at line 5 of page 1 of the specification.

**BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION**

Please insert the following paragraph at line 16 of page 2 of the specification.

**SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION**

Please insert the following paragraph at line 5 of page 4 of the specification.

**BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS**

Please insert the following paragraph at line 29 of page 4 of the specification.

**DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF PREFERRED VERSIONS OF THE INVENTION**

Please insert the following Abstract following the claims (such Abstract also being provided on a separate sheet accompanying this Preliminary Amendment, as per 37 CFR §1.72(b)):

A system for determining the condition of a device or process uses the inter-arrival times of successive acoustic emission events generated by the device or process being monitored. From this measurement, the system determines a statistical distribution, preferably a Weibull distribution, to determine a shape to life parameter for characterizing the device or process being monitored. The system allows a simple and effective determination of the condition of a device or process, taking into account operating conditions and which can monitor also the state of healthy components.